

June 15, 2004

Dear VVFC Provider,

Effective immediately, the following supersedes all previous varicella immunization policies. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Centers (RHC) should provide varicella vaccine to patients as follows:

- **Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Eligible Patients:**
 - All **susceptible*** children who are at least 12 months of age through 18 years. Please follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) vaccine recommendations and schedule located in your Immunization Manual. Facilities must conduct VFC eligibility screening on each patient and record the response according to federal and state requirements.
- **Non-VFC Eligible Patients:**
 - Facilities may now provide varicella vaccine provided by the Division of Immunization, at **no cost**, to all **susceptible*** children between 12 months and 18 years of age, not covered under the VFC program. Please follow the ACIP vaccine recommendations and schedule.

Facilities may also provide varicella vaccine to other patients not covered under the criteria referenced above by using privately purchased vaccine.

*** Susceptible: No history of having had chickenpox or serologically negative for varicella.**

Please continue to follow the existing varicella ordering instructions and the manufacturer's storage and handling requirements. These requirements may be found in the varicella vaccine package insert, and the ACIP recommendations printed in the MMWR, June 12, 1996/vol. 45/No. RR-11.

Sincerely,

Kristen M. Harker, M.S.Ed., CHES
VVFC Program Director